

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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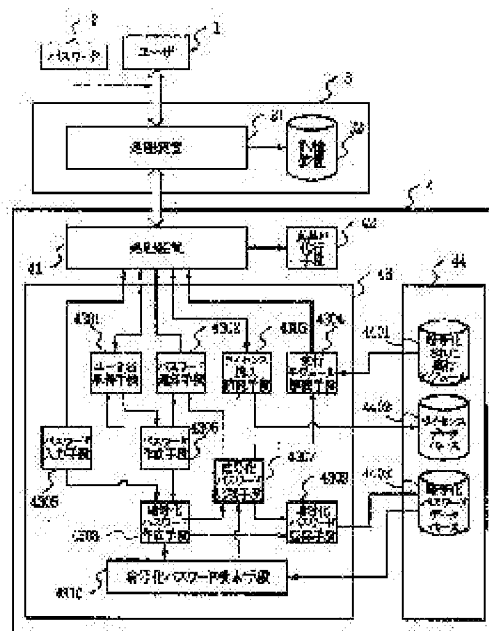
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(54) DEVICE FOR MANAGING USE OF SOFTWARE

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To reduce an opportunity for a user to input a password as much as possible, to prevent the illicit use of a software and to preserve the software required for the user in the storage device of system of the user even when a medium recorded with the software does not exist on the side of the user.

SOLUTION: A user system 3 and a software server system 4 of a software distributor are connected through a communication mechanism, and an execution module registering means 43 to be executed by the user registers a deciphered execution module into the user system 3 by operating an enciphered password data base 4403 and an enciphered execution module 4401. A new user purchases the software on the communication mechanism through a payment substituting means 42. A password 2 is prepared for the new user by a password preparing means 4306, registered in the enciphered password data base and reported to a user 1.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]A software server system of software distribution person possession which manages software which a software distribution person provides, An execution module memory measure saved in said software server system, An execution module registration means to register into a user system said software currently held at said execution module memory measure, A user comprises a transmitter style which registers said software and connects a user system to perform, and said software server system and said user system, A password inputting means which requires an input of a password when registering said software from said software server system to said user system, A password memory measure which keeps a registered password is compared with said entered password and a password currently kept by said password memory measure, A password comparing means which restricts registration to a user system without a right password, and a payment vicarious execution means for said user to be judged to be a new registration user, and to perform purchase procedure of said software in that case if a password is not entered by said password inputting means, A device for managing use of software provided with a password preparing means which creates and publishes a password so that it may become settled uniquely to said said user who paid and purchased said software via a vicarious execution means.

[Claim 2]Said user When [said] it paid and said software is purchased via a vicarious execution means, A device for having a user name acquisition means which acquires a user name registered into a system, and managing use of the software according to claim 1 creating a password so that it may become settled from said acquired user name uniquely to said user.

[Claim 3]Said user When [said] it paid and said software is purchased via a vicarious execution means, A device for managing use of the software according to claim 1 creating a password which becomes settled uniquely to said user using a system name which said user

name and said user system hold.

[Claim 4]A device for said user to manage use of the software according to claim 1 creating said user name, a date which said user system holds, and a password which becomes settled from time uniquely to said user when [said] it pays and said software is purchased via a vicarious execution means.

[Claim 5]A device characterized by comprising the following for managing use of the software according to claim 1 by which it was characterized.

An encrypted password preparing means which enciphers the contents of said password memory measure.

An encrypted password memory measure which was created by said encrypted password preparing means and which saves said encrypted password.

An encrypted password registration means to register said encrypted password created by said encrypted password memory measure by said encrypted password preparing means.

An encrypted password search means to search said encrypted password out of said registered encrypted password memory measure, An encrypted password comparison means to distinguish whether a result which said encrypted password search means searched is compared with said encrypted password, and it can register with said encrypted password memory measure.

[Claim 6]A device characterized by comprising the following for managing use of the software according to claim 1.

An encryption execution module memory measure which enciphers a module registered into said user system, and is held in said software server.

An execution module decoding means which decodes said enciphered execution module and is transmitted to said user system if said password comparing means searches said password out of said password memory measure.

[Claim 7]A device characterized by comprising the following for managing use of the software according to claim 5.

An encryption execution module memory measure which enciphers a module registered into said user system, and is held in said software server.

An execution module decoding means which decodes said enciphered execution module and is transmitted to said user system if said encrypted password comparison means searches said encrypted password out of said encrypted password memory measure.

[Claim 8]A device characterized by comprising the following for managing use of the software according to claim 1.

A renewal verifying means of an execution module which supervises information on a version of said software memorized by said execution module memory measure in said software server system.

An update information reporting means which notifies said user registered using said transmitter style of said software having been updated when said execution module is updated.

[Claim 9]A device characterized by comprising the following for managing use of the software according to claim 5.

A renewal verifying means of an execution module which supervises information on a version of said enciphered execution module which is memorized by said encryption execution module memory measure in said software server system.

An update information reporting means which notifies said user registered using said transmitter style of said software having been updated when said enciphered execution module is updated.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention]This invention relates to the device which manages use of the software which has a protection feature especially to the unauthorized use of software about the device for managing use of software.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art]Conventionally, there were some methods about the protection to use of software.

[0003]One is the method of restricting the copy of the software itself. However, by this method, it will also be restricted that a registered user copies for the purpose of backup. After it processes attaching a crack physically specially etc. into a software recording medium as same method and software distinguishes the processed portion at the time of execution, there is a thing of starting execution. Also in this case, it is restricted that a user copies software for the purpose of backup.

[0004]Only when special apparatus, i.e., a hardware key, is added to hardware as an option and existence of a hardware key is able to be checked at the time of software implementation, there is a method by which software is performed. In this case, the restriction about the copy of software is lost and only execution of software is restricted. However, in the case of the software in which this method has two or more licenses, the hardware key for several license minutes will be needed, and a product will become expensive as a result.

[0005]Methods which do not provide restriction in the copy of software and protect software from the unauthorized use of software include the method of distinguishing a registered user using a password as shown, for example in JP,5-334072,A. Drawing 5 is a block diagram showing the device for managing use of the conventional software. Drawing 6 is a flow chart showing operation of the device for managing use of the conventional software. In drawing 5,

the user's 1 user system 3 is provided with the processing unit 31, the memory storage 32, and the reader 34 of the software recording medium 6, and the user 1 saves the purchased software via the reader 34 at the memory storage 32 from the software recording medium 6. The user 1 is notified of the password 2 by the software distribution person 5 with a telephone or a mail letter independently [the software recording medium 6].

[0006]Next, operation is explained using drawing 5 and drawing 6. If starting is required from the software which the user 1 purchased first, the execution control program 33 will be executed first (Step C1). The execution control program 33 of which execution was required requires the input of a password of the user 1 via the processing unit 31 of a user system by the password inputting means 4305 first (Step C2). The user 1 enters the password 2 which came to hand from the software distribution person 5. The execution control program 33 decodes the entered password 2 by the password decoding means 3303 (Step C4), The justification of the password 2 is distinguished by the user discrimination means 3302 (Step C5), and when it is judged that it is a registered user's password 2, execute permission is published for the execution control means 3301. The execution control means 3301 which received execute permission calls the execution module 3201, and performs the execution module 3201 with a processing unit (Step C6). The execution control means 3301 does not perform the execution module 3201, as long as there is no permission from the user discrimination means 3302. Therefore, when the password 2 was inaccurate, or when the password 2 is not entered, the input of the password 2 is again required by the password inputting means 4305.

[0007]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]Since the input of a password is required whenever it performs software, in order that the device for managing use of the conventional software mentioned above may control execution by a password, a user will feel troublesome. Since the purchased software is distributed in the form of a software recording medium, in order for a user to save software at the memory storage of a user system, the software recording medium needed to exist to the user. Therefore, in the case of the software which has two or more licenses, Since the number of users to which it can license became [two or more] to a software recording medium being 1, the whereabouts of the purchased software recording medium became unknown in many cases, and a user could not perform install work immediately in that case, but there was a case where it interfered with employment of a user system.

[0008]In adding the number of licenses of the software which has two or more licenses, it contacts to the distribution person of software, I did not need to have a password newer than a software distribution person supplied, and software could not be immediately used for the user who is going to save software to a user system newly, but there was a case where it interfered

with employment of a user system also in this case.

[0009]The 1st purpose of this invention is for solving the above problems, and is obtaining the device for lessening the opportunity a user entering a password, as much as possible, and keeping the unauthorized use of software from being possible. The 2nd purpose of this invention is to obtain the device which makes it possible to save the software which a user needs at the memory storage of a user's system, even if the medium which recorded software does not exist to a user. The 3rd purpose of this invention is to obtain the device which can respond promptly, also when you wish the addition of the number of licenses. The 3rd purpose of this invention is to obtain the device which cannot take out a user's information, even if the password database with which the registered user's information was accumulated is accessed unjustly.

[0010]

[Means for Solving the Problem]A transmitter style which connects both to a user system for a user to perform registration and execution of the software concerned and a software server system of the software concerned by the side of a software distribution person constitutes a device for managing use of software of this invention for the above-mentioned purpose achievement. And it has a registration limiting function only an execution module registration means to have a means to encipher and save (1) execution module and to decode an enciphered execution module enables a user to register an execution module into a user system. An execution module registration means requires a password at the time of registration, and has the function to restrict unjust registration of the software concerned to a system of a user without a password.

[0011](2) A transmitter style between systems through a network is used, and a user has a function which makes it possible to register the software concerned from a software distribution person's software server to direct users' system.

[0012](3) An execution module registration means has a function which sells software using a transmitter style, and the function to create and publish a password to a user who purchased software using a transmitter style, to a user without a password.

[0013](4) An execution module registration means has a function to encipher and save a password, and the function saved to decode an enciphered password.

[0014][Function] -- since the enciphered execution module is undecipherable if it does not use an execution module registration means, the feature of the account of before (1) enables it to protect registering an execution module unjustly to a user system from a software server.

[0015]If the network is established between a user's system and a software distribution person's software server according to the feature of the above (2), Even if a software recording medium does not exist to a user, a user becomes possible [registering the software concerned from a software server to a user system].

[0016]With the payment vicarious execution function in which a credit card or a price payment means with an equivalent function was used on the occasion of a new user and an addition of a license according to the feature of the above (3). An addition of new registration which a user expects without time delay of a user who completed price sending procedure on a transmitter style by publishing a new password, or a license is attained.

[0017]Since an in-house data is enciphered even if a password database which has accumulated a password in a software server is unjustly accessed by the feature of the above (4), it becomes possible to protect password information and User Information.

[0018]

[Embodiment of the Invention]Next, an embodiment of the invention is described with reference to drawings.

[0019]Drawing 1 It is a block diagram showing a 1st embodiment of the device for managing use of the software of this invention.

[0020]When drawing 1 is referred to, a 1st embodiment of this invention comprises the following:

The user system 3 provided with the processing unit 31 which operates by control of a program for performing software with which a user wishes to register, and the memory storage 32 which memorizes said software.

Since a software distribution person provides a user with software, The execution module registration means 43 for transmitting the payment vicarious execution means 42 for making payment of the processing unit 41 which operates by control of a program, and the price for software on a transmitter style, and an execution module to a registered user, and an execution module, The software server 4 provided with the memory storage 44 which memorizes password information.

[0021]The execution module registration means 43 is provided with the following.

User name acquisition means 4301.

Password notice means 4302.

License purchase verifying means 4303.

The execution module decoding means 4304, the password inputting means 4305, the password preparing means 4306, the encrypted password comparison means 4307, the encrypted password preparing means 4308, the encrypted password registration means 4309, and the encrypted password search means 4310.

The memory storage 44 is provided with the following.

The enciphered execution module 4401.

License database 4402.

Encryption password database 4403.

[0022]Next, operation of a 1st embodiment of this invention is explained in detail with reference to drawing 2. Drawing 2 is a flow chart showing operation of a 1st embodiment of the device for managing use of the software of this invention.

[0023]After the user 1 connects the user system 3 to the software server 4, the execution module registration means 43 in the software server 4 is performed (Step A1). The execution module registration means 43 requires the input of the password 2 of the user 1 by the password inputting means 4305 first (Step A2, A3). If the password 2 is entered, it will be first changed into an encrypted password by the encrypted password preparing means 4308 (Step A10). Next, by the encrypted password search means 4310, it is searched from the encryption password database 4403 whether said encrypted password exists (Step A11, A12). If it does not exist, as that into which the inaccurate password was entered, it returns to the input of a password. When the user 1 does not enter the password 2, it is judged as a new registration user. The remaining numbers of licenses are counted first (step A4). At the license database 4402, the remaining numbers of licenses of the user who has purchased the license are saved. In the case of the personal use user, the remaining license is 1. When the number of the remaining licenses has used up all 0, i.e., a license, a check is required [whether a license is purchased and or not] of the user 1 by the license purchase verifying means 4303 (step A5). When the remaining license is not 0, and when carrying out the additional purchase of the license, it pays and the vicarious execution means 42 performs payment procedure of software (Step A6). In this case, it is made for the payment of the price for software of the administrator of the software server 4 to become possible on a transmitter style by the payment vicarious execution means according to a credit card or it. After there is a notice which procedure completed from the payment vicarious execution means 42, the input request of a user name is carried out to the user 1 by the user name acquisition means 4301. A user name serves as source data for making the password 2. The password 2 is created by the password preparing means 4306 based on the inputted user name, a date, and consecutive numbers (Step A7). The created password 2 is further enciphered by the encrypted password preparing means 4308, It is changed into the form registered into the encryption password database 4403, and registers with the encryption password database 4403 by the encrypted password registration means 4309 (Step A8). The user 1 is informed of the password 2 before [which was created on the other hand] being enciphered by the password notice means 4302. When the user 1 registers the software concerned for the first time, After the user 1 is registered into the encryption password database 4403, while the enciphered execution module 4401 is decoded by the execution module decoding means 4304, it is transmitted to the user system 3 (Step A16). The transmitted execution module is stored in the memory storage 32 in the user system 3. When the user 1 is already registered into the encryption password database 4403, it

checks [whether the software concerned is registered into the user system 3, and] (Step A13, A14). When already registered, the software registered into the user system 3 is deleted, and re-(Step A15)registration is started (Step A16).

[0024]Next, a 2nd embodiment of this invention is described in detail with reference to drawing 3.

[0025]When drawing 3 is referred to, a 2nd embodiment of this invention, In addition to a 1st embodiment, it differs in [which consists of the renewal verifying means 4502 of an execution module which supervises the version of an execution module, and the update information reporting means 4501 which tells the user 1 renewal of an execution module] that it has the execution module version-control means 45.

[0026]Next, operation of a 2nd embodiment of this invention is explained in detail with reference to drawing 4. Drawing 4 is a flow chart showing operation of a 2nd embodiment of the device for managing use of the software of this invention.

[0027]Since portions (drawing 3, Step B7) other than execution module version-control means 45 are the same as that of the 1st example, explanation is omitted. In a 1st embodiment, when a software distribution person updates an execution module, the direct reference of the enciphered execution module 4401 which is saved at the software server 4 for a user's acquiring update information must be carried out, or it must wait for the notice from a software distribution person. In the case of the former, it is not preferred from the field of security that the user 1 refers to the enciphered execution module 4401. It has forbidden usually carrying out the direct reference of it, if the enciphered execution module 4401 is not the user 1 with a specific right. In the case of the latter, the user 1 receives a notice from a software distribution person, and by the time it updates an execution module, time delay will occur. The user 1 has to manage the version of the software concerned registered into the user system 3.

[0028]In a 2nd embodiment, the user's 1 starting of the software concerned registered into the user system 3 will perform the execution module version-control means 45 which is in the software server 4 first (step B-2). (Step B1) Execution of the execution module version-control means 45 will inspect whether the renewal verifying means 4502 of an execution module compares the version of the enciphered execution module 4401 and the software concerned registered into the user system 3, and is updated (Step B3). If not updated, starting of the software concerned is continued (Step B8). When the software distribution person has updated the software concerned, it asks whether update the notice of updating, and the software concerned in (Step B4) and the user system 3 to the user 1 using the updated information means 4501 (step B5, B6). If the user 1 wishes to update, the execution module registration means 43 in the software server 4 will be started, and an update process will be performed (Step B7). When performing an update process, when the software concerned is registered for the first time, an update process can perform the user 1 only by entering the password 2

notified from the software server 4.

[0029]

[Effect of the Invention]As explained above, the 1st effect of the device for managing use of the software of this invention, A user system for a user to perform registration and execution of the software concerned, The software server system of the software concerned by the side of a software distribution person, The transmitter style which connects both constitutes, and an execution module is enciphered and saved, Only by an execution module registration means to have a means to decode the enciphered execution module. It has a registration limiting function it enables a user to register an execution module into a user system, Since the execution module registration means was constituted so that it might have the function to restrict unjust registration of the software concerned to the system of the user who demands a password at the time of registration and does not have a password, Once a user enters a password at the time of registration of software, it has the effect that the unauthorized use of software can be restricted, by not entering a password when performing software and enciphering a password and an execution module.

[0030]The 2nd effect uses the transmitter style between the systems through a network, It writes in the composition which enables a user to register the software concerned from a software distribution person's software server to direct users' system, Even if the recording medium of software does not exist to a user, it has the effect that the software which a user needs can be saved at the memory storage of a user's system.

[0031]The 3rd effect receives the user to whom an execution module registration means does not have a password, Since it constituted so that it might have a function which sells software using a transmitter style, and the function to create and publish a password to the user who purchased software using the transmitter style, On the occasion of a new user's registration and the addition of a license, it has the effect that time delay can be lost.

[0032]The 4th effect the registration means of an execution module, Since it constituted so that it might have the function to encipher and save a password, and the function to decode the enciphered password which is saved, Since the in-house data is enciphered even if the password database which has accumulated the password in a software server is accessed unjustly, it is effective in becoming possible to protect password information and User Information.

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TECHNICAL FIELD

[Field of the Invention]This invention relates to the device which manages use of the software which has a protection feature especially to the unauthorized use of software about the device for managing use of software.

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PRIOR ART

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[0003]One is the method of restricting the copy of the software itself. However, by this method, it will also be restricted that a registered user copies for the purpose of backup. After it processes attaching a crack physically specially etc. into a software recording medium as same method and software distinguishes the processed portion at the time of execution, there is a thing of starting execution. Also in this case, it is restricted that a user copies software for the purpose of backup.

[0004]Only when special apparatus, i.e., a hardware key, is added to hardware as an option and existence of a hardware key is able to be checked at the time of software implementation, there is a method by which software is performed. In this case, the restriction about the copy of software is lost and only execution of software is restricted. However, in the case of the software in which this method has two or more licenses, the hardware key for several license minutes will be needed, and a product will become expensive as a result.

[0005]Methods which do not provide restriction in the copy of software and protect software from the unauthorized use of software include the method of distinguishing a registered user using a password as shown, for example in JP,5-334072,A. Drawing 5 is a block diagram showing the device for managing use of the conventional software. Drawing 6 is a flow chart showing operation of the device for managing use of the conventional software. In drawing 5, the user's 1 user system 3 is provided with the processing unit 31, the memory storage 32, and the reader 34 of the software recording medium 6, and the user 1 saves the purchased software via the reader 34 at the memory storage 32 from the software recording medium 6. The user 1 is notified of the password 2 by the software distribution person 5 with a telephone or a mail letter independently [the software recording medium 6].

[0006]Next, operation is explained using drawing 5 and drawing 6. If starting is required from

the software which the user 1 purchased first, the execution control program 33 will be executed first (Step C1). The execution control program 33 of which execution was required requires the input of a password of the user 1 via the processing unit 31 of a user system by the password inputting means 4305 first (Step C2). The user 1 enters the password 2 which came to hand from the software distribution person 5. The execution control program 33 decodes the entered password 2 by the password decoding means 3303 (Step C4), The justification of the password 2 is distinguished by the user discrimination means 3302 (Step C5), and when it is judged that it is a registered user's password 2, execute permission is published for the execution control means 3301. The execution control means 3301 which received execute permission calls the execution module 3201, and performs the execution module 3201 with a processing unit (Step C6). The execution control means 3301 does not perform the execution module 3201, as long as there is no permission from the user discrimination means 3302. Therefore, when the password 2 was inaccurate, or when the password 2 is not entered, the input of the password 2 is again required by the password inputting means 4305.

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EFFECT OF THE INVENTION

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TECHNICAL PROBLEM

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]Since the input of a password is required whenever it performs software, in order that the device for managing use of the conventional software mentioned above may control execution by a password, a user will feel troublesome. Since the purchased software is distributed in the form of a software recording medium, in order for a user to save software at the memory storage of a user system, the software recording medium needed to exist to the user. Therefore, in the case of the software which has two or more licenses, Since the number of users to which it can license became [two or more] to a software recording medium being 1, the whereabouts of the purchased software recording medium became unknown in many cases, and a user could not perform install work immediately in that case, but there was a case where it interfered with employment of a user system.

[0008]In adding the number of licenses of the software which has two or more licenses, it contacts to the distribution person of software, I did not need to have a password newer than a software distribution person supplied, and software could not be immediately used for the user who is going to save software to a user system newly, but there was a case where it interfered with employment of a user system also in this case.

[0009]The 1st purpose of this invention is for solving the above problems, and is obtaining the device for lessening the opportunity a user entering a password, as much as possible, and keeping the unauthorized use of software from being possible. The 2nd purpose of this invention is to obtain the device which makes it possible to save the software which a user needs at the memory storage of a user's system, even if the medium which recorded software does not exist to a user. The 3rd purpose of this invention is to obtain the device which can respond promptly, also when you wish the addition of the number of licenses. The 3rd purpose of this invention is to obtain the device which cannot take out a user's information, even if the password database with which the registered user's information was accumulated is accessed

unjustly.

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MEANS

[Means for Solving the Problem]A transmitter style which connects both to a user system for a user to perform registration and execution of the software concerned and a software server system of the software concerned by the side of a software distribution person constitutes a device for managing use of software of this invention for the above-mentioned purpose achievement. And it has a registration limiting function only an execution module registration means to have a means to encipher and save (1) execution module and to decode an enciphered execution module enables a user to register an execution module into a user system. An execution module registration means requires a password at the time of registration, and has the function to restrict unjust registration of the software concerned to a system of a user without a password.

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[0012](3) An execution module registration means has a function which sells software using a transmitter style, and the function to create and publish a password to a user who purchased software using a transmitter style, to a user without a password.

[0013](4) An execution module registration means has a function to encipher and save a password, and the function saved to decode an enciphered password.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1]It is a block diagram showing a 1st embodiment of the device for managing use of the software of this invention.

[Drawing 2]It is a flow chart showing operation of a 1st embodiment of the device for managing use of the software of this invention.

[Drawing 3]It is a block diagram showing a 2nd embodiment of the device for managing use of the software of this invention.

[Drawing 4]It is a flow chart showing operation of a 2nd embodiment of the device for managing use of the software of this invention.

[Drawing 5]It is a block diagram showing the device for managing use of the conventional software.

[Drawing 6]It is a flow chart showing operation of the device for managing use of the conventional software.

[Description of Notations]

1 User

2 Password

3 User system

4 Software server

5 Software distribution person

6 Software recording medium

31 Processing unit

32 Memory storage

33 Execution control program

41 Processing unit

42 Pay and it is a vicarious execution means.

43 Execution module registration means

44 Memory storage

45 Execution module version-control means

[Translation done.]

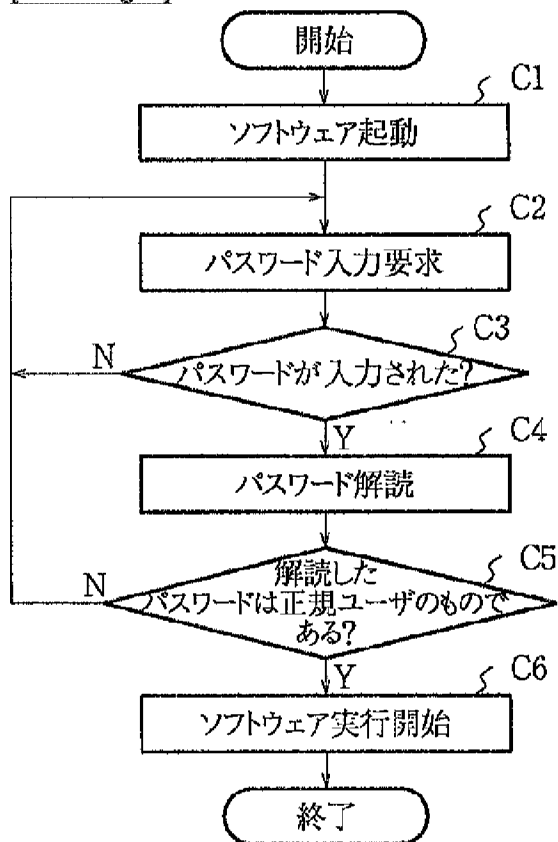
* NOTICES *

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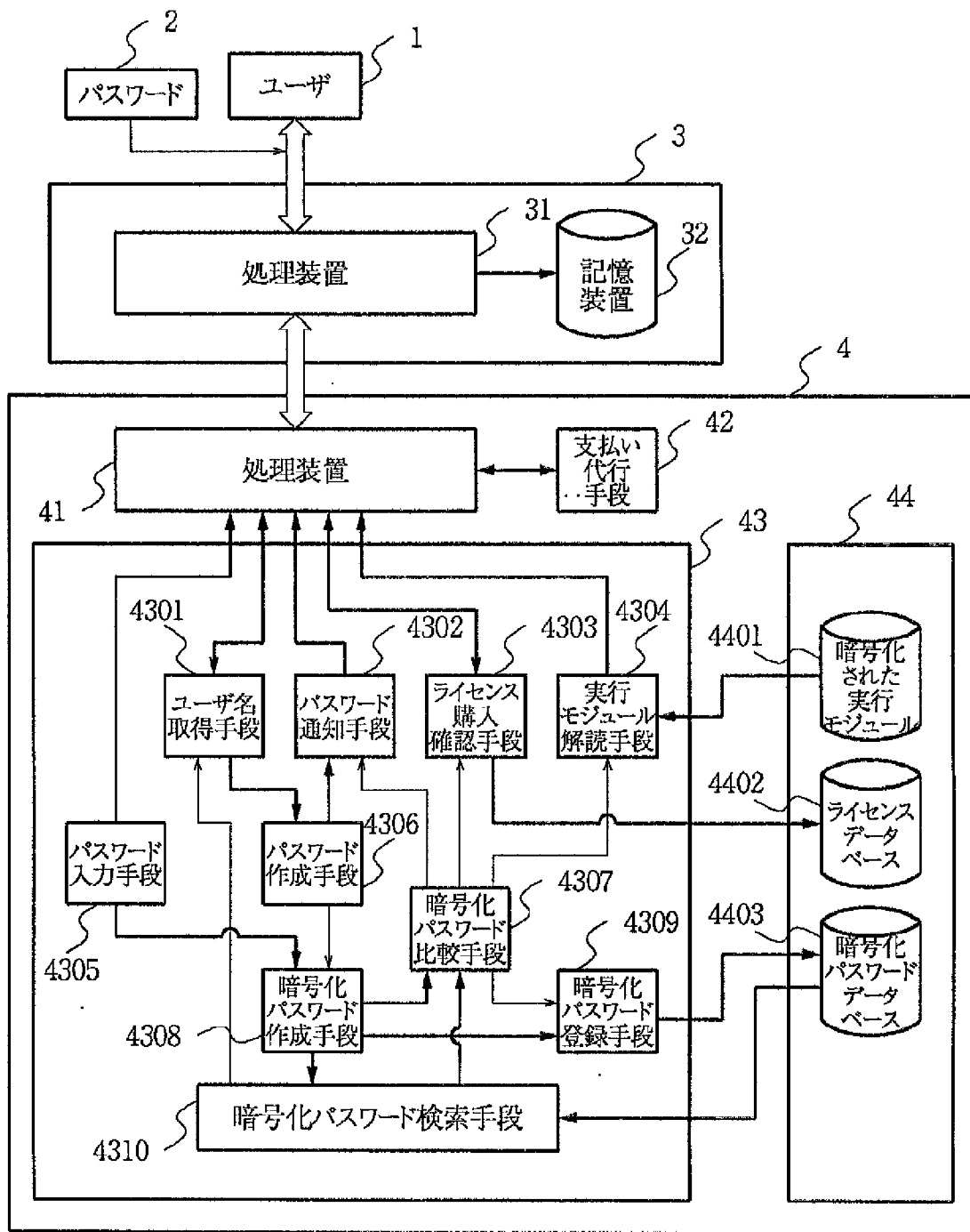
- 1.This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.**** shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DRAWINGS

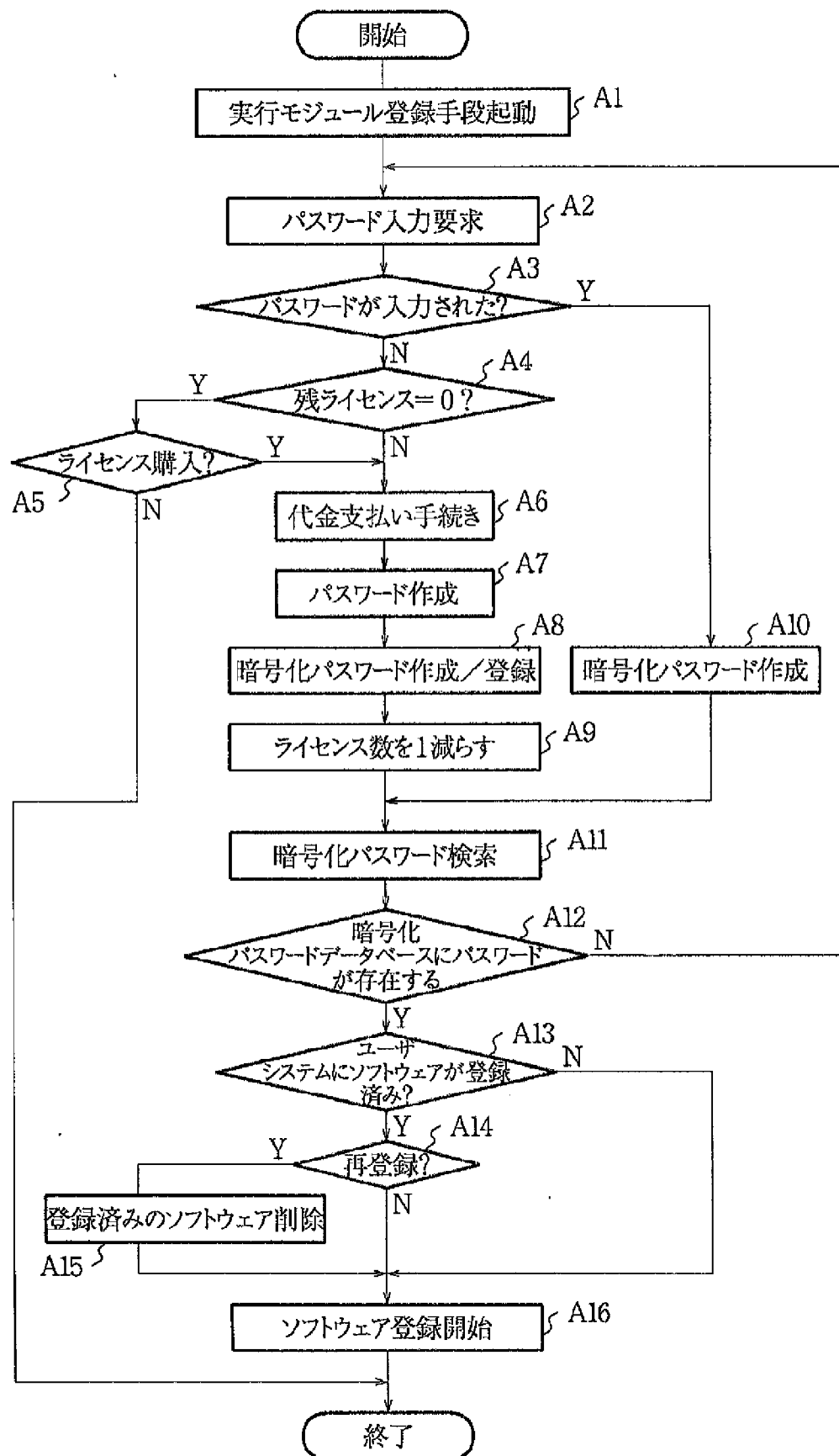
[Drawing 6]



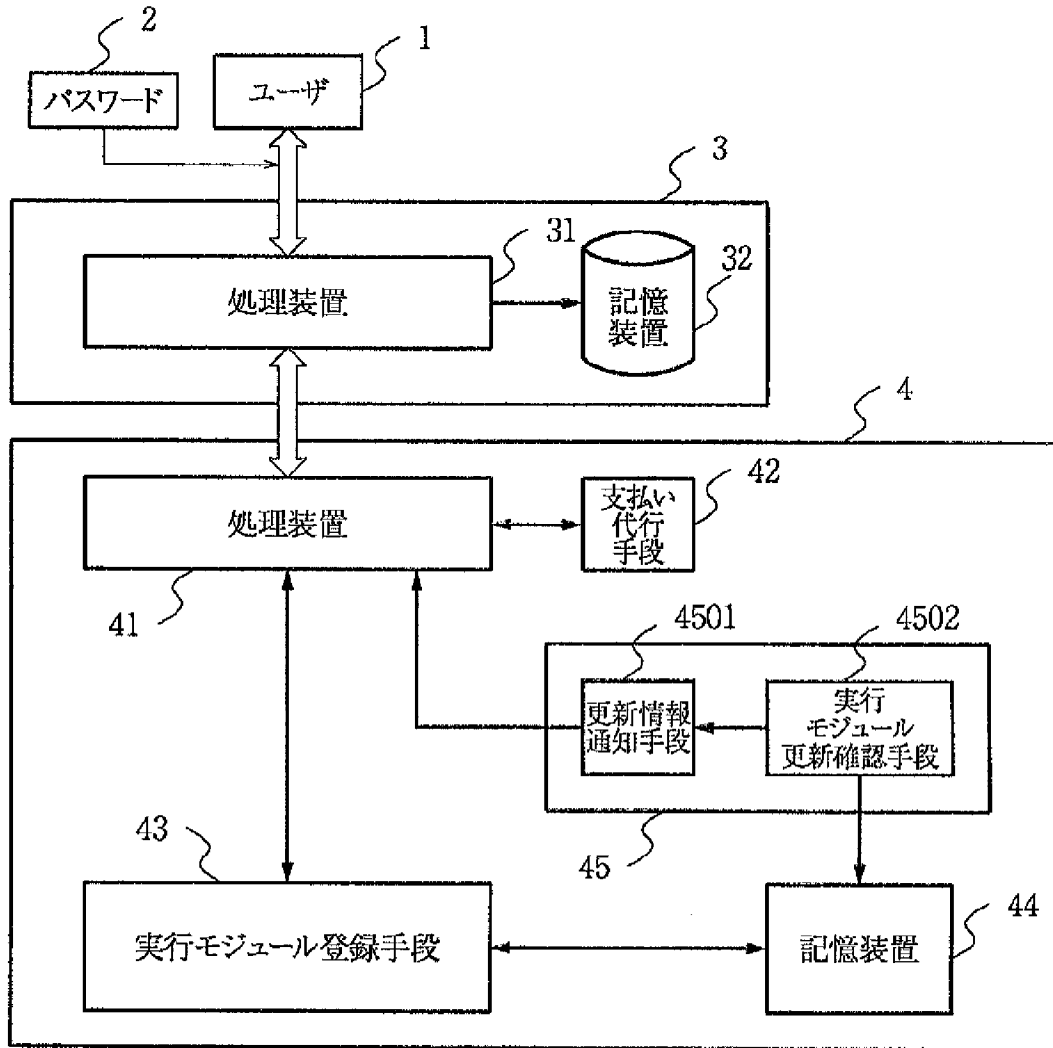
[Drawing 1]



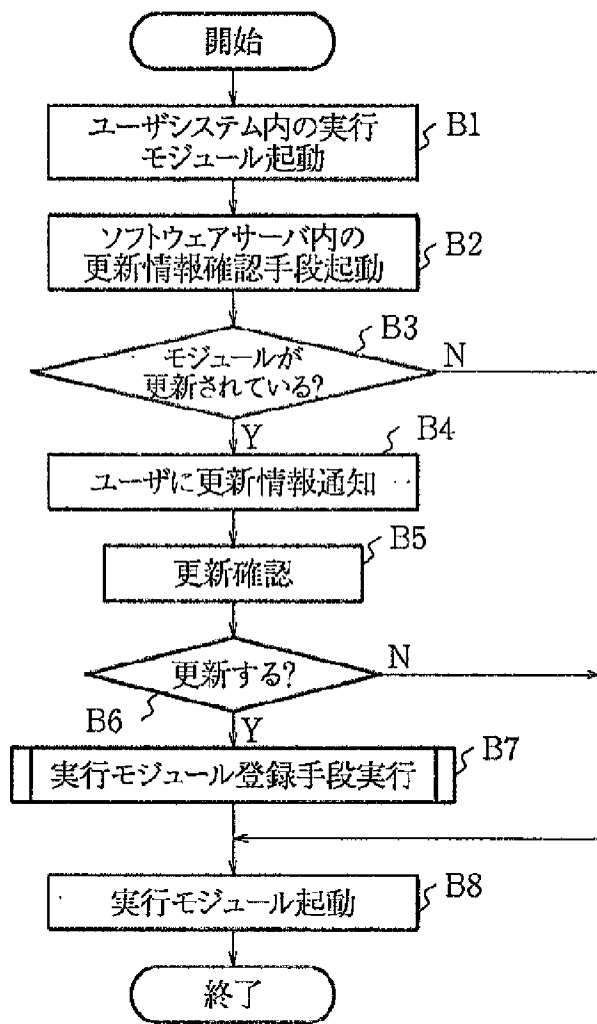
[Drawing 2]



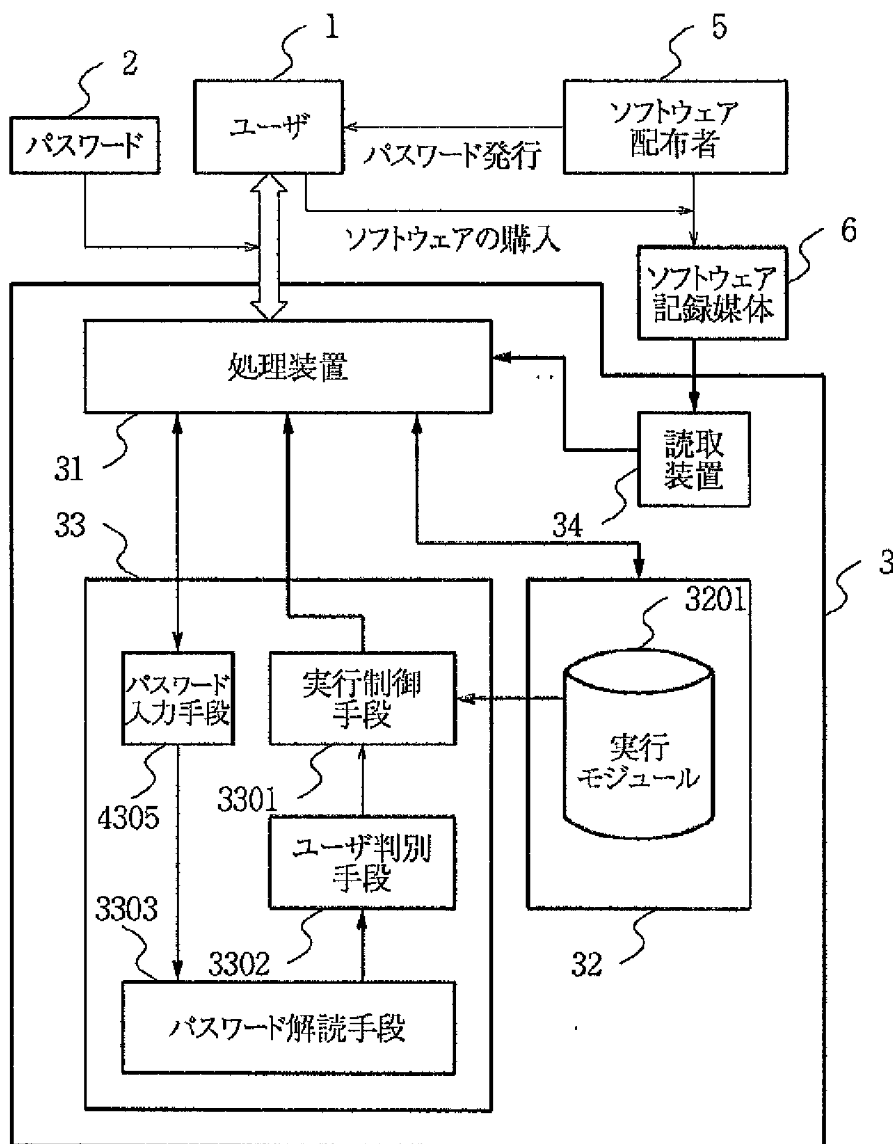
[Drawing 3]



[Drawing 4]



[Drawing 5]



[Translation done.]